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Art Unit: 2143

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are pending in this application and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Graves. Claims 1, 14, 26, 29 and 39 are currently amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The presently claimed invention distinguishes Graves because the user need not have the network information in order to invoke the communication services. Typical provisioning of communications services requires human intervention, and is relatively slow and costly. (See application at page 3, lines 10-15). Although technology for enabling a user such as an enterprise to quickly provision a new service has been known for some time, it has not been adopted because individual communications service providers are reluctant to allow enterprises to have detailed information about the service provider's communications network. Without knowledge of, for example, network topology, device identification and protocols, it can be difficult to establish a path across a network or coordinate capabilities provided by different network elements. The presently claimed invention solves this problem by enabling the network information to be used to obtain services on behalf of the enterprise while shielding the information from the enterprise. As discussed in the application at page 13, lines 9-11, the optical service agent ("OSA") can be viewed as a subsystem that understands user requirements and manages various communications services on behalf of the user to meet those requirements.

Claims 1, 14, 26, 29 and 39 are currently amended to emphasize the distinguishing features discussed above. For example, claim 1 recites that the agent includes "network information related to the communication services," which is used by the optical service logic to obtain services such that "the user need not have the network information in order to invoke the communication services." Claims 14, 16 and 29 recite similar limitations. Claim 39 now recites

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"obtaining optical communication services from the optical communication network based at least in-part on the peer information."


In addition to shielding the user from sensitive network information, it should be noted that the invention could be used to provision services for network devices that are not capable of directly utilizing the service provider's UNI. Hence, the invention could facilitate implementation of multi-vendor networks and extend the capabilities of legacy equipment.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

  
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